Background on the floodplain maps:

In Missoula County, floodplain maps were modernized through a Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project initiated in 2005 and completed in 2015. Granite County was modernized to digital format with a 2016 RiskMAP project. The maps were converted from paper to the digital environment. None of the proposed stream reaches were restudied during DFIRM conversion, and as a result, the effective mapping is old, and in most cases has not been updated for decades.

Missoula County

Clark Fork River

Most of the effective floodplain mapping on the Clark Fork River is based on flood study work from the 1960s and 1970s. In Missoula County, a floodway encroachment analysis was added to 15 miles of the river in 2006 as part of Missoula's digital floodplain map conversion, and a map revision was completed on 4 miles of the river in 2015 as part of a dam removal project.

Bitterroot River

Approximately 21 miles of the Bitterroot River flows through Missoula County, and empties into the Clark Fork River just downstream of the Missoula city limits. It was studied by detailed methods in 1975.

Granite County

Clark Fork River

In Granite County, most of the floodplain mapping on the Clark Fork River is approximate mapping that was developed from 1975 aerial photographs and topographic maps. There is detailed mapping on approximately 11 miles of the Clark Fork in and around the town of Drummond, but that flood study work was completed in 1979.

Rock Creek

Rock Creek flows into the Clark Fork River along the border of Missoula and Granite Counties. Most of the 52-mile river is in Granite County, with the lower 13 miles of the river flowing back and forth across county lines.

The majority of the floodplain mapping is approximate mapping, based upon study work completed in 1973 and 1975. Granite County's FIS states that aerial photographs of the 1972 flood were used as a basis for the mapping delineations.
There are six tributary streams to Rock Creek with approximate mapping dating back to Granite County's initial 1982 FIRMs. According to the FIS, the delineations shown on the 1982 FIRMs were based on approximate depths of flooding established from streams in the region and topographic maps.